

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 164

By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend head coach Vic Grider and the 2010 South Pittsburg High School football team for winning the TSSAA Class 1A BlueCross Bowl state championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those student athletes who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as true competitors of whom all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2010 South Pittsburg High School football team have proven themselves to be the ablest of competitors and, as such, deserving of the highest regard; and

WHEREAS, the South Pittsburg Pirates have counted among its members some of the most talented young athletes Tennessee has produced; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of head coach Vic Grider, the 2010 team propelled itself to a 12-2 record and reached the Class 1A BlueCross Bowl, where they faced the team from Jo Byrns High School. Though the Jo Byrns Red Devils entered the championship game undefeated, the Pirates maintained a commanding lead for the duration of the game and defeated the Red Devils 41-6, earning South Pittsburg its fifth 1A state title; and

WHEREAS, the victory was made possible in part by contributions from Pirates' senior running back and defensive back Raquis Hale, who rushed for 228 yards and four of South Pittsburg's five touchdowns, feats which garnered him the BlueCross Bowl Offensive Most Valuable Player award; and

WHEREAS, Raquis's contributions also helped his fellow senior teammates become the first group of Pirates to ever win two state championships, the first of which this team earned in

2007. These intrepid seniors also become the school's winningest class ever, with a four-year record of 50-6; and

WHEREAS, Raquis Hale also amassed 1,076 playoff yards on his way to setting a new Pirates' season record of 2,454 rushing yards; and

WHEREAS, Pirates senior quarterback Travis Millard had one of the best games of his South Pittsburg career, completing seven of nine passes for 149 yards and one touchdown and carrying the ball five times for forty-six yards; and

WHEREAS, South Pittsburg dominated the first half of the game, ending the half with a 21-0 lead over Jo Byrns; and

WHEREAS, the Pirates opened the second half with an impressive drive which included a forty-four yard touchdown by Raquis Hale, and the defensive line needed only three plays to shut down Jo Byrns's next drive; and

WHEREAS, the Pirates' defense was led by the inspirational play of linebacker Coltin Blevins, whose tenacious play throughout the game earned him BlueCross Bowl Defensive Most Valuable Player honors; and

WHEREAS, though the Red Devils drew up some impressive plays, their talents proved to be no match for the Pirates; and

WHEREAS, Coach Grider's leadership and passion for the game are without question, and his principles of playing tenacious defense, controlling the ball on offense, and limiting mistakes were on display throughout the Pirates' season; and

WHEREAS, the members of this talented team are: Matthew Allen, Demetric Johnson, Jake Stone, Jijuan Lankford, Michael Allen, Deuel Jones, Raquis Hale, Travis Millard, Antonio Chubb, Payne Mosley, Kyle Blevins, Jonathan Sellers, Corbin Hale, Caleb Rector, Josh Wilson, Kam Cunningham, Khalil Mitchell, Josh Parker, Riley Hargis, Karrell Hutchins, Coltin Blevins, Alex Collier, Jawan Smith, Stephon Mitchell, Matthew Hawkins, Chandler McBee, Ricky Fehr, Cody Wordlaw, T.J. Havner, Kyle Channin, Cody Branham, Aubrey Earvin, Alex Mosley, Trey Chance, Jakoby Reynolds, Michael Ashburn, Trey Martin, Alex Shiver, John Wells, Anthony Sellers, Jamie Jackson, Shaquille McKinney, and Cooper Lewis; and

WHEREAS, Coach Grider was ably assisted in his coaching duties by Heath Grider, Danny Wilson, David Hale, Wesley Stone, Tim Starkey, and Jim Thomas; and

WHEREAS, the South Pittsburg High School football team, in both victory and defeat, has displayed the tenacity, camaraderie, and skill of a magnificent team teams; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2010 South Pittsburg High School football team, not only for the team's championship win but for the players' superior sportsmanship and the joy they have brought to their fellow students, their fans, and the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate head coach Vic Grider and the 2010 South Pittsburg High School football team for their heralded success on the gridiron, applaud their capture of the 2010 TSSAA class 1A state championship, and extend to them our best wishes for future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.